Reviewer’s report

Title: SUICIDE AND DELIBERATE SELF-HARM IN PAKISTAN: A SCOPING REVIEW

Version: 0 Date: 05 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Marijn Lijffijt

Reviewer’s report:

The current study is a critical review of the literature on risk factors, determinants, and methods of suicidal behavior in Pakistan. This is an interesting paper with robust methods that deserves publishing. I do have some points that need to be addressed.

General:

1) I believe that 'self-inflicted injuries' and 'deliberate self-harm' refer to suicide attempt. If so, I recommend that the author uses the term 'suicide attempt' or 'suspected suicide attempt' instead because 'self-inflicted injuries' has also a connotation of non-suicidal cutting and other non-suicidal self-injurious behaviors.

Introduction

1) The Introduction could be streamlined. After the short note on suicide rate/number in India and China, perhaps those numbers in Pakistan and what sets Pakistan apart from other India and China (stigmatized and criminalized behavior). Next, the authors can mention the correlates of suicidal behavior and something about methods, and how little is known about those aspects in Pakistan due to the stigmatization and criminalization of those behaviors. Finally, the authors can address the aims of the study.

2) Please rewrite "While the psychopathology of individuals is a critical factor in suicidal behavior [in Western cultures??], in non-Western cultures, (particularly the South Asian countries), social and environmental factors, rather than mental disorders, appear to play a major role to play in suicidal behavior".

Methods:

1) I do not understand what is meant by "It is generally recommended that research evidence is limited a wider approach be maintained so that better coverage of the topic can be carried out"

2) Please rewrite "Published literature included in analysis consisted of one hundred and eight articles". I think that analysis should be replaced with review.
3) It is not clear why there are different numbers of included papers (111 [pg 10, line 31], 107 [pg. 10, line 43-50], 44 [Tables 1 and 2; some were double, however])

4) Pg 17: "33.22/100,00" should be 33.22/100,000.

Discussion:

1) Instead of mentioning that people 'indulge' in suicidal behaviors, perhaps the authors can use 'engage in suicidal behaviors'.

2) Please rephrase "The increased use of firearms in suicides in Pakistan reflects their growing in the country [...]".

3) Please rephrase "For e.g. due to stigma it [...]" to "For example, due to stigma [...]".

4) Perhaps the authors can stress that data on risk factors and determinants of suicidal behaviors, including mental illness and gender, may be biased away from mental illness and away from men because of the current stigmatization and criminalization.

Are the methods appropriate and well described? 
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls? 
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown? 
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review? 
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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